



Prayer of Discernment

“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matt. 6:21)

GREETING

Peace Be with You

CENTERING PRAYER

Gracious God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of Life, have mercy on us. Reveal yourself in all things, to all things, and through all things. Grant us the gift of becoming a community of the Incarnation, filled with Christ-like desire who sees and celebrates good news in hard places.

INVOCATION OF THE SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit. Quiet our souls. Teach us how to pray. Be our guide, our counselor, our advocate, and our defender. Speak to us again the truth of our deepest identity hidden in you: “You are my child whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

BREATHE GOD’S NAME

[...Silence...]

PRESENCE

You are Immanuel—the God who is with us. There is nowhere we can flee from your presence, and nothing can separate us from your love. We accept your invitation to relax into this miracle—to notice and to welcome your presence in all things. We name your presence in places where it is particularly needed and hard to see, as well as where your presence is clearly visible...

GRATITUDE

The deepest form of gratitude we can offer is our own joy. We recognize that your presence is the substance of all that we hope for. Our deepest desire is your delight and your Yes. As we learn to trust our deepest desires, we give thanks...

GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

We welcome you Holy Spirit, who gives us courage and compassion to see ourselves, our relationships, our world, and even our enemies as we really are. Ease the fear that blinds us, binds us to our false selves, and keeps us from the Truth that sets us free. Spirit, we receive your light in the movements of our emotions, naming these today...

REFLECTION

As those who are being renewed by your love, we freely confess to you our wounds—the deep wounds of blindness, voicelessness, despair, and isolation. We confess our misplaced desires that bind us to our wounds in deceptive and destructive ways. We recognize in experience fear or freedom, trust or fixation, false or true selves, anxious attachments or release into you as the Ground of Being. Re-create us in your desire that we might discover ourselves again in you. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy. For ourselves and our communities we confess and acknowledge...

RESOLVE

As your beloved ones who are forgiven and free, we freely forgive those who have done harm. We eagerly loose the chains of injustice that hold your children captive. May we be midwives to the holy and seek the peace of the cities in which we serve. We gladly participate in the ongoing act of creation, expressing your lavish beauty in our daily work and play. Gracious God, we ask for one more grace: to do and to will your good pleasure. Lord have mercy. As your Spirit leads, we resolve to...

OUR LORD'S
PRAYER

Our Father who is in heaven, holy is your name. May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us because She* has anointed us to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

We pray all of this in the name of the Father who is for us, the Son who is with us, and the Spirit who unites us all in the never-ending dance of Love. Amen.

Go in peace.

*The Benediction scripture has been paraphrased from several translations. In particular, we enjoy the freedom to imagine the Holy Spirit in feminine gender—inspired by the numerous feminine as well as masculine images of God in Scripture. In doing so, our paraphrase reflects what many English translations do not, that is, that the pronoun used for the Spirit in the early Greek texts was not masculine but neuter.